

Report on JST SSH Fair 2018

It was 4:30 p.m. when we 3, along with Anupama Ma'am, gathered at the airport to catch our flight for the land of rising sun, Japan. After 4 months of hard work, we could finally say that we were prepared. We bid goodbyes to our families before taking off from Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport with mixed emotions, a little fear, some curiosity, loads of excitement and a sense of responsibility. After a really tiring but fun-filled journey, we reached the Osaka Airport where we met our tour conductor, Ms. Wakaba Fuji waiting for us with a signboard of "SSH India" and a huge smile.

Due to shortage of time, we rushed to our hotel to keep the luggage and hurried towards the Kobe International Convention Hall. After setting up the posters on our booth, we were taken to interact with the students of the other international schools, to build new friendships and create beautiful memories. We shared about each other's culture, school life, daily routine etc. An orientation was organised to update us with the complete schedule for the next two days. Later, a welcome reception was conducted where all the international schools were greeted with a huge round of applause by the Japanese high school students. Three students from three different countries were invited on the stage and introduce themselves. Manvi, from our group, represented India and spoke on behalf of all the three Indian schools, greeting everyone with a NAMASTE.

We got 3 lovely rooms in the b-Kobe Hotel which were completely technically driven, even the washlets. We had a small but lovely meeting with the other two Indian schools which were: Blue Bells School International from Delhi and Cathedral & John Connon School from Mumbai. It took a little time but we got along with them quite well. The biggest challenge was to bear with the Japanese food which was completely different from the Indian style and that too, using chopsticks. We managed to learn the art of using chopsticks after 2-3 intolerable meals. But we survived, thanks to our readymade food packets. After a few run-throughs and important discussions, we hit the sack.

We woke up the next morning with an aspiration to perform at our best level and achieve whatever we can. A lengthy but interesting opening ceremony awaited us at the hall with a lot of popular people speaking and giving motivation to all the students. We headed towards our booth, all prepared and excited. We started off with the poster presentation round with our heads up and managed to attract the crowd with colourful wigs and bowls containing natural hair conditioners. The Henna tattoos too excited the students. It was a tremendous challenge to explain our project to the Japanese high school students who were not comfortable with the



English language. We managed to tackle this problem quite easily as we had our PPT and pamphlet translated into Japanese language with the help of Ruchie Bhalla Ma'am and Minh of class X. After receiving a lot of praises and good job stickers, we got a call up for our 10 min oral presentation. To our joy, it went really well with us receiving a huge round of applause by the audience.



A similar Day 2 of the fair awaited us. The six selected Japanese high school teams presented their oral presentations on the big stage followed by the result ceremony. Awards were given to various Japanese high schools who had mind-boggling projects and researches. The fair ended with a group photograph of all the international schools. We utilised the free evening time by visiting the Harbour Land which looked like a paradise with well-lit streets multi coloured vibrant merry go round



On Day 3, The JST had organised an excursion program the next day to a Japanese high school named Hyogo Prefectural Kakogawa Higashi High School. We mingled with the school students and other international students. The Japanese students guided us in making a building of paper. We had the task of making it strong as possible to withstand earthquakes. In the second half of the day, we were taken to the Himeji Castle which had a really interesting structure and history. Our mobiles overflowed with our amazing selfies and clicks of the beautiful views we saw through the train and

bus windows. At the end of a tiring but memorable day, we had a good night sleep. The next morning, our tour conductor saw us off at our new hotel, Pepper's House in Osaka.



With the help of our alumni, Mansi Singh who studies at the Ritsumeikan University, Osaka Campus, we visited the Fushimi Inari Taisha shrine the World Heritage site in Kyoto and had some delicious Italian food. An amazing ride in the 3rd fastest train of the world, the Shinkaansen, bullet train in Japan, made our last day quite memorable.

